

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

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R 032030Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3608

INFO AMCONSUL RECIFE

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMCONSUL BELEM

AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE

AMCONSUL SALVADOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 3924

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJECT: THE CHICO PINTO AFFAIR

REF: BRASILIA 3840

1. AS A RESULT OF THE DECISION OF THE BRAZILIAN SUPREME COURT TO ACCEPT FOR TRIAL THE CASE AGAINST MDG "AUTENTICO" DEPUTY FRANCISCO PINTO, THE DEPUTY RELEASED THE FOLLOWING PRESS STATEMENT WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL DE BRASILIA ON JUNE 2.

QUOTE I DO NOT WISH TO EXPRESS MYSELF AS YET OVER THE DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT. AT THIS MOMENT, I COULD SHOW A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF BITTERNESS IN THE FACE OF A DECISION WHICH WAS ENTIRELY UNFAVORABLE TO ME AND TO THE INSTITUTIONS WHICH ARE BEING JUDGED ALONG WITH ME. I AM, HOWEVER, CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT I WAS ELECTED TO BE A CRITICAL VOICE OF THE PEOPLE. WHAT DISTURBS ME ARE THE
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IMPLICATIONS WHICH FLOW FROM THIS CASE. WHILE THE

MILITARY COURTS, IN THEIR DECISIONS, REPEATEDLY PROCLAIM THAT THE DECREE-LAW ON NATIONAL SECURITY HAS A RESTRICTED APPLICATION WITHIN THE PHILOSOPHY OF SECURITY, I SEE HERE AN ATTEMPT TO STRETCH THE LIMITS OF THAT SPECIAL AND EXCEPTIONAL LAW IN AN EXTENSIVE, FAR-REACHING AND GENERIC INTERPRETATION.

ALL THIS, AS IF IT WERE NOT ENOUGH TO HAVE INSTITUTIONAL ACT FIVE OVERRIDING THE CONSTITUTION AND MENACING ALL--THE LEGISLATURE, THE SUPREME COURT, CIVIL AND MILITARY INSTITUTIONS. I DO NOT FEAR FOR MYSELF. I FEAR FOR THE CONGRESS, I FEAR FOR THE PRESS. FOR THE JUDGES. I FEAR FOR ALL THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNEASY NATION. FOR THE PEOPLE, UNPROTECTED. MY CONDUCT HAS BEEN CORRECT. I WILL NOT BE DEFLECTED FROM IT. I WILL CONTINUE MY FIGHT SUPPORTING THE COMMITMENTS WHICH REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE REQUIRES. I HOPE THAT THE INSTITUTIONS THREATENED IN THIS CASE WILL ALSO KNOW HOW TO RESPOND TO DESPOTISM. UNQUOTE.

2. PINTO'S ATTEMPT TO PUT HIMSELF FORWARD AS REPRESENTING A THREATENED INSTITUTION, WHILE MAKING FOR A RINGING DECLARATION, WILL NOT HAVE MUCH APPEAL EXCEPT FOR HIS FELLOW MDB "AUTENTICOS." AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES HAS GONE TO SOME PAINS TO DESCRIBE PINTO'S OFFENSIVE SPEECH AS AN INDIVIDUAL ACT, NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHAMBER, FOR WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.
CRIMMINS

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